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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JUNE 20, 2000

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

WILLIAM F. EAREHART, et al.

v.

VALLEY RIDGE WATER COMPANY, INC.

CASE NO. PUE000340

PRELIMINARY ORDER

By notice dated March 24, 2000, pursuant to the Small Water or Sewer Public Utility Act (§ 56-265.13:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia ("Code")), Valley Ridge Water Company, Inc. ("Valley Ridge" or the "Company"), notified its customers and the Commission's Division of Energy Regulation (the "Division") of its intent to increase its rates effective for service rendered on and after July 1, 2000.

By June 1, 2000, the Division had received objections to the proposed rate increase from 77 customers, or approximately forty-two percent (42%) of Valley Ridge's customers.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered the matter, is of the opinion that a hearing, pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code, should be scheduled in the above captioned matter. The Commission also is of the opinion that the implementation of the Company's proposed rates should be suspended pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code. We find that Valley Ridge should file

certain financial information based on its operations on or before July 17, 2000. A procedural schedule establishing, among other things, the date of the hearing will be by separate order of the Commission.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter shall be docketed and assigned Case No. PUE000340.

(2) The implementation of the Company's proposed rates shall be suspended pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code for sixty (60) days from date of the Company's proposed effective date, or through August 29, 2000; thereafter the increase in the Company's rates shall be interim and subject to refund, with interest, until such time as the Commission has made a final determination in this proceeding.

(3) On or before July 17, 2000, Valley Ridge shall file certain financial information with the Commission's Division of Public Utility Accounting. Such information shall include an income statement, balance sheet, customer consumption by month, cash flow statement based on utility operations for the calendar year ending December 31, 1999, the Company's most recent federal income tax return, and a rate of return statement, with work papers supporting all proposed adjustments to book amounts, which support the Company's proposed rate increase as required

by the Commission's Rules Implementing the Small Water and Sewer Public Utility Act (20 VAC 5-200-40 et seq.).

(4) This matter shall be continued subject to further order of the Commission.